



# HUNTING TRAILS

## CARTRIDGES & ARROWS



*Newsletter for the Missouri Department of Conservation's  
Hunter Education, Bowhunter Education, & Shooting Programs*

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*"Over 1 Million Served"*

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### Autumn Lessons Learned

*By Michael E. Brooks*

One of my favorite times of the year is the fall for a variety of reasons. One thing I always look forward to is the beginning of the hunting seasons, because it is during this time I get to share quality time with my family and friends in the field. Another reason I enjoy the fall is that the holiday season begins, and one of my favorite holidays has always been Thanksgiving. For those of you who know me, you know I enjoy eating, but this holiday in particular is special to me because it is a time to reflect on the many blessings I have experienced.

One of those blessings I remember as if it were yesterday, is when I was a young child our family would always go to my Grandma's house near Willard for Thanksgiving dinner. It was always a special time to see my aunts, uncles, and cousins, which was a real treat since we lived so far apart and didn't get the chance to see one another all that often. You see, they lived in Springfield and we lived west of Willard but for us to go to Springfield when I was a child seemed like we were preparing to travel across the country for an extended stay somewhere.

As the day progressed, my father Howard, and my uncle Harry would round up my cousin Mark and me and we would be allowed to get into grandma's closet and retrieve the old single-shot 16 gauge shotgun and the partially used box of Western Xpert shotgun shells. This always excited me. For a couple of youngsters our age to be allowed to get into Grandma's closet and get the gun out was an honor and a great deal of responsibility, and we both knew it. Because of our upbringing, both of us being taught to respect firearms, we knew that we were only allowed to handle them because our dads were present.

This single-action added to the excitement of the Holiday,

for I knew what was going to be next. The younger kids stayed behind and watched the Christmas parades on the black-and-white television in the living room, hoping for a glimpse of Santa, while us older boys were treated to another lesson in my father's outdoor classroom. The four of us would head out for a grand time in my grandma's field and woods hunting for rabbits and squirrels. My cousin Mark and I would take turns packing the shotgun while we were hunting. It wasn't until several years later that we both had our own 16 gauge single-shot shotguns and were allowed to hunt together at the same time.

We would first pass the blackberry patch full of briars and thorns, a perfect place to jump a rabbit or two we always thought. We would then come to Grandma's persimmon tree and of course we had to stop and sample a few that had been left behind by the local opossums and raccoons. When we had our fill of persimmons we would continue our hunt and would then reach the timber. It was a nice young stand of oak trees with a few cedars and pines interspersed. This area was perfect for squirrels, or so I thought. There was lots of great food for them to eat, with acorns being abundant. Scanning the tops of the trees for nests, we would continue our hunt, watching for any movement in the trees until we reached the back fence of the property.

We would then switch hunters, since we had only the one gun and would then hunt our way back through the woods and then across the field back toward the house. When we arrived back at Grandma's we would always check and double check to make sure the gun was unloaded and all

*(Continued on page 2, Autumn Lessons Learned)*

Due to manpower and budget cutbacks the Hunting Trails Newsletter will be going from quarterly to three times a year. The newsletter will be coming out in January, May and September. Submissions must be by the first of the preceding month to make the upcoming edition.

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of the shells were put away, back in the box we got them from. We would go inside and wipe down the shotgun with a cloth and some 3-In-One oil and put it away, back in that same closet where we got it from, not to be seen again until Christmas or perhaps even next Thanksgiving. If we were lucky that day afield, our Dads would help us clean our game and would make sure that we had it refrigerated in some saltwater before we joined the rest of the family for Thanksgiving dinner.

Today as I reflect back on these special hunts, I realize that the interesting thing is we hardly ever saw rabbits or squirrels on these great adventures, but it taught us things about ourselves and about life. Lessons about taking only from the land what we can use without wasting and about respecting and appreciating all things in nature whether plant, animal or water.

Our fathers taught us how to be "Woods Smart." Things like how to remain safe and vigilant when crossing fences and downed trees. Or how to walk or stalk quietly through the woods being careful not to step on twigs and limbs that crack and snap, making all things aware of your presence. A part of that lesson was about respecting everyone else you were with by holding branches and limbs apart so others could pass just as quietly as you could while not being whipped by the brush.

They mentored us about things like reading sign in the woods. Finding partially eaten things like hedge apples along with empty acorn or walnut shells might be a clue that squirrels are in that area. Finding an impression in the grass with small round dark pellets nearby might be a definite clue that rabbits are using that area.

We learned that when an animal moves through the grass on a morning with dew you often can see the disturbance of the water droplets being brushed off of the grass, which creates a path to follow. Then there were things like checking barbed-wire fences for any trace of animal hair left behind from a recent crossing. I learned lessons about making ethical decisions. While it may be legal to shoot into a squirrel's nest to see if anything falls out, is shooting the nest being a responsible, ethical hunter using fair chase practices?

I find that each time I go hunting and pull the trigger on an animal I always have mixed emotions about it. I feel as if we as a society have lost something so very special by taking that creature away from what it had been put on earth to do, while at the same time having a deeper sense of gratitude about the animal giving its life to nourish my family and me. Growing up in Greene County, knowing that during the 1960s there were so few deer and turkey left, so that even a deer track in a mud puddle made front-page news, caused me to have an even greater appreciation and respect for all of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to conservation.

These people have made countless sacrifices, spending thousands of hours managing our resources so future generations will have the opportunity to experience many of the same things I have been blessed with. When I drive somewhere and I see deer and turkey now abundant in places that I grew up hunting, just knowing there were none makes me respect and appreciate these dedicated professionals both past and present, that much more. Because of the many lessons and blessings I have received, my life has been changed in so many positive ways and for that I am deeply indebted to my Father and grateful to all of those who have shared their influence along the way.

I know that now is the time to get out with a young person and start mentoring them in your outdoor classroom. If you do they too will have blessings and lessons that they will remember for a lifetime. Who knows, maybe they too will share their outdoor classroom experiences into the future.\*\*



### *Coordinator's Corner*

Hunter Education & Range Coordinator

*Tony L. Legg*

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If you have not heard yet, in December an instructor with over 12 years of experience instructing Missouri Hunter Education classes had an accidental firearm discharge in his class. The instructor was also a school teacher conducting a class in his school and was using his own firearms instead of a gun kit. It was a .22 cal rimfire, semi-automatic rifle.

Prior to demonstrating the safety, he removed the magazine and cycled the action several times, but never visually checked the chamber. As notorious .22 rimfires are for this, there was a round in the chamber and during the cycling it was not extracted and ejected. The firearm discharged, the round traveled through a metal plate, ceiling insulation and through the roof.

This reminds us all, that even the most experienced of us can make mistakes if we are not vigilant, become complacent or fail to follow proper procedures. When it comes to firearms and safety each time needs to be like the first and we must pay critical attention to details each and every time.

At this time I ask you to take an opportunity to ensure you are in contact with your fellow instructors and remind those that use their own firearms as part of any course to be absolutely sure they are unloaded prior to leaving their home, prior to class (have multiple instructors clear them before class), during demonstrations and (as this instructor) keep classroom guns pointed in a safe direction at all times.

One tip: if you have a magazine tube fed firearm, take some bright colored nail polish (orange, pink, etc.) and paint the tip

of the follower, so when you look into or through a receiver you can easily see the magazine tube follower stand out and clearly show it is empty. And, run weedeater cord down the barrel and out the chamber to show the firearm is clear.

Many of you are aware MDC is going through a lot of changes; faces you have seen for some time are retiring or taking new positions. Manpower and budgets are being cut. Many are asking what does this mean for Hunter Education and other hunting education programs,...CHANGE.

As with other agencies, organizations, and businesses, MDC has to take a look at how it operates and adopt policies and practices that help balance the demands of the public available staff and funding. However, we do not see any drastic changes in our Hunter Education Program at this time. We have already been working to anticipate changes and have been active instead of reactive to the situation. Thanks to all your support the program is in good shape, but there may be some additional changes as we move forward.\*\*\*\*\*

## **MISSOURI HUNTING HERITAGE FEDERATION ON THE MOVE**

*By Alan Hoover, Executive Director*



The Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation is poised to begin a statewide expansion of its hunter education clinic program. Organized in 2008 as a non-profit corporation, MHF members and their board of directors worked together in pursuit of three major goals: establish and evaluate the MHF clinic model, create a solid institution as the foundation from which to launch a statewide expansion of the program, and attract funding for a full-time paid executive and for the equipment necessary to implement expansion plans.

MHMF remained a small local group centered in the Kansas City Metro area while building a new organization from the ground up. Major accomplishments during that period include incorporating in Missouri as a non-profit organization, achieving a 501(c)(3) federal tax exemption as a public charity, obtaining trademark protection for the MHF logo, creating a web site, and receiving Missouri sales tax exemption. In addition, MHF membership doubled, and volunteers conducted seven clinics despite intentions to remain small during this period of organization.

MHMF clinics are free and consist of three parts: hunter education class, live fire session and mentored hunt. Participants must be at least 9 years of age and must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian throughout the clinic. MHF provides firearms as needed, ammunition, targets, safety equipment and clothing, and some meals. Students are responsible for transportation and any applicable license fees. Clinics are progressive events in that students

must pass the hunter education class before proceeding to the live fire, where they must demonstrate firearm safety before proceeding to the hunt. Each student has an MHF member as their mentor on the hunt.

This past August MHF received a \$10,000 grant from the JB Reynolds Foundation dedicated for the purchase of equipment to begin expansion efforts. Recently the Joseph R. Bixby Family Fund, a second private foundation, has pledged donations dedicated for staff funding. With the tremendous financial support of these two sponsors, the MHF Board decided it was time to move forward with plans to hire a full time paid executive director and begin in earnest a statewide expansion of the MHF clinic program.

Beginning January 1, 2010, yours truly, Allan Hoover, will retire after nearly thirty years as a truck driver for Associated Wholesale Grocers in Kansas City, KS to become the executive director of MHF, which is a position I've held as a volunteer since the group was founded. I look forward to devoting full-time effort to such a worthwhile cause and to working with many of you as together we continue the hunting tradition in Missouri.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation, the clinic model or membership opportunities can visit the MHF web site [www.mhfh.us](http://www.mhfh.us) or contact me at [allan@mmh.us](mailto:allan@mmh.us) or 816-392-5549.\*\*\*\*\*

## **Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation to Expand Operations throughout the State**

### **Expansion efforts aimed at recruiting members and engaging more youth in hunting**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (September 29, 2009) – Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation, a two-year-old nonprofit organization based in Pleasant Hill, Mo., is poised to expand operations throughout Missouri, according to its president, Lee Vogel. MHF conducts free weekend hunter education clinics designed to introduce youth ages 9 years and older and their families to hunting and the outdoor way of life.

“The population of existing hunters is aging, and too few young hunters are coming along behind them,” Vogel said. “At the current rate of recruitment, Missouri cannot maintain good conservation levels. Our expansion will introduce and help to safely and ethically engage more youth in the sport.”

MHMF was founded to help recruit and retain young hunters. To date, MHF has organized 13 hunting/trapping events in seven counties around the Kansas City metropolitan area. Ninety-nine youth and their families have attended these events, and MHF now envisions a program that would provide clinics in all of Missouri's 114 counties.

At its annual meeting Sep 13, MHF unveiled a newly



created PowerPoint presentation that its members plan to present to hunting and conservation groups statewide. The presentation explains MHHF's purpose and goals, and seeks cooperation in raising awareness of the organization's free clinics.

A recent \$10,000 grant from JB Reynolds Foundation also has boosted MHHF's ability to expand statewide, Vogel said, allowing the group to purchase equipment that will be used to recruit new members throughout the state and provide training in how to conduct free hunter education clinics using MHHF's proven techniques. The organization also is working to secure funding for a full-time executive director position.

Also at its annual meeting, MHHF announced the recipients of its highest award, named in honor of Keith McCanse, the conservationist who, in the 1920s, laid the groundwork for modern-day conservation in Missouri. Dan Hertzog, owner of Hedge Hollow Ranch in Bates County, Mo., and Ty Green, assistant manager of the ranch, received the award. Both men were instrumental in securing early funding for MHHF's hunter education clinics and in providing land for youth hunts.\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mark Your Calendars 2010 Statewide Events**

13 Feb – MoNASP State Tournament, Linn Technical College, Linn

5-6 Mar – MHEIA Annual Instructor Conference, Holiday Inn Select, Columbia

24 Apr – MTA State High School Trap Shoot, MTA Gun Club, Linn Creek

12-22 Aug – State Fair

The will to be stupid is a very powerful force, but there are always alternatives. - Lois McMaster Bujold



Education Outreach Coordinator, Kevin Lohraff submitted this photo of a recent successful bow hunt, however we think there may be some photographic foolery going on here. Protection is investigating.



### **Kansas City Region, KC Metro District**

Outdoor Skills Specialist

David Wyatt

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The KC District instructors are recuperating from losses within our instructor family.

Instructor Don Sears passed away in October while on a pheasant hunt in Nebraska. Don was a cornerstone for this region for many years, not only doing traditional and on-line field day classes but also serving as mentor on youth hunts and assisting with YHEC. He volunteered at the Discovery Center, assisted with Freedom School, and used his NRA knowledge and shooting skills to serve as an officer at Lake Lotawana Sportsmen Club. It is an understatement to say he will be missed.

Also passing away was Bob Hedges, the husband of instructor Sandy Hedges. For years we would see Bob with Sandy at our local banquets, the State Instructor Banquets at the lake and at YHEC. I personally know he assisted her in loading and unloading her car with the firearms she used during the classes.

During October and November, regional instructors working with Missouri Hunting Heritage Federation conducted two youth hunt events. Four youth participated in a deer hunt during the October Youth Hunt Weekend with one father and son working together to get the 12-year-old his first deer. On the upland chukkar hunt, all youth participating were skillful enough to be successful in getting a chukkar.

Several of the instructors took to the woods during Missouri deer season but I haven't heard any tales of monster deer taken yet. Brenda Schulz, pictured below used her shooting skills to put game in the freezer, taking an "almost Boone and Crocket" deer.



Jerky on the hoof.

As I attended classes during the October/November deer season rush I was very pleased with the time instructors spent with the students to assure the information was covered thoroughly. In the past I have been in courses that rushed through information with large classes. While visiting classes at Parma Woods, Burr Oaks, Oak Grove Community Center and others, instructors still got the students involved. Parents also had positive comments relating to how quickly the 10 hours went.

December will be a busy month for instructors as they assist with youth hunts and orientations. Classes scheduled for December are filling quickly and preparations will soon start for our Instructor Award Banquet on Jan 9.

KC Regional Instructors wish all a pleasant holiday.\*\*\*\*



several ducks harvested and three deer being taken, including one nice eight-point buck by youth hunter Ben Guillory.

For your local Outdoor Skills Specialist this fall began with the annual ritual of attending Mizzou football games and preparing for the upcoming waterfowl season. Duck decoys had to be organized, shotguns checked, camouflage touched up and even the old duck boat had to be repaired so it once again would float. I won't go into great detail of how I discovered last season that it didn't float, but suffice it to say that 5am in a cold marsh is no place to sink your boat!

On Nov 3, the duck posse took to the road for a two-week whirlwind tour of Missouri's marshes. By Nov 10 and the end of the tour we had driven over 1,500 miles and hunted at Grand Pass, Nodaway Valley, Bob Brown and Four Rivers. Needless to say when it was over we all needed a little sleep.

One recent highlight came in the form of a new pup this year. My wife, JoAnne, and I acquired a new duck dog from Hunter Education Instructor and kennel owner Kent Evans of Centralia. "Show-Me Gus's Sweet Leilani" or just "Lani", joined our family in late September. "Lani" was whelped in mid August and is a black female Labrador. She is the second lab I've owned, the first being Dakota, a chocolate male who reached the age of 12 and had natural hunting instinct and drive. Dakota has been gone for several seasons and I've missed what a good water dog brings to the hunt. We look forward to Lani joining us in the marsh next season to follow in Dakota's footsteps.



## Central Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist  
**Brian Flowers**  
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Well we made it thorough another fall hunter education rush and with only minor scrapes and bruises. Congratulations to all of our Central Region volunteers and staff that held 38 courses in all 15 counties and certified 1,214 students. Everyone worked extremely hard to meet the public demand for hunter education and we know we couldn't have done it without the great effort from our volunteer corps.

In an effort to streamline our operations, Central Region piloted the new "online" registration program for students during the fall of 2009. St. Louis and Central Regions' were chosen to try the new system which involved students entering registration information online instead of completing the blue registration sheets in class. Instructors were able to see the class roster during sign up, as well as print the roster for use in class. Instructors were then able to submit the class results directly online to the OSS for approval and then to Jefferson City for processing.

This new system will continue to be evaluated by staff in 2010. The real savings with a paperless system such as this come in the form of time and the cost of printing forms. Once our instructors were able to learn how to maneuver thorough the program, it became clear that the online system saved time and you know what they say about that!

I hope everyone got out to enjoy the fall hunting seasons. Our season began with what we've been calling the "2009 Bucks & Ducks weekend". This year the youth deer season fell on the same weekend as the middle zone youth duck hunt Oct 31 – Nov 1. So what does the MDC playbook call for in the event of overlapping youth seasons? Well, hold one big "Bucks & Ducks" youth hunt and camp of course. Eleven youth along with parents and adult mentors joined us for a



Beau Griffith 200 hours, Charles Korman 400 hours, Ken Leffert 300 hours, Richard Lionberger 300 hours, Rod Luck 100 hours, Matt McAdams 100 hours, Chouristopher Mertz 100 hours, Marilyn Overkamp 300 hours, Vern Dean Stucker 100 hours, John Travlos 100 hours, Randy Vernon 200 hours, Earl Williamson 1000 hours. Congratulations to all of these hardworking instructors for their continued dedicated service in their communities.\*\*\*\*\*



### ***Kansas City Region Sedalia/Clinton District***

Outdoor Skills Specialist  
**Mark Miller**  
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Greetings from Sedalia and Clinton

I really looked forward to this deer season. Not because I had a shooter buck patterned and couldn't wait to get at him, but because when I looked at my calendar I noticed a lot less ink on the pages after opening weekend. Instructors that had classes cancelled, or barely made in August and September really made up for it in late October and the weekend before the firearms deer season. Several instructors set personal records for numbers of students, and every class was full in both districts on the weekends just prior to deer season.

I want to thank you all for helping us serve the public on their terms. You went and helped at classes you weren't planning to, moved in extra tables and chairs, and without exception took more students than you can normally accommodate. The extra effort did not go unnoticed, and was very much appreciated.

I want to give a special thank you to Mark Albright and the group at State Fair Community college. They had 80 or more students registered for the class on the weekend of Nov 6 and 7, three of whom were hearing impaired. They were able to find an interpreter, but it took significant extra effort and time to ensure the students acquired the information needed not only to pass the test, but to also be safe in the field.

Now that the push is over (for a while) it's time to relax, hunt and celebrate. The Sedalia District awards banquet will be Feb 6 at Ryan's in Sedalia. The Clinton District banquet will be at the Valley Center Church of Christ (same as last year) in deepwater, on Jan 23. I will be mailing invitations for both events around the first of the year.

Thanks again for all you do, and wish each of you a happy holiday season

As Always, "Hunt Safe"\*\*\*\*\*

... children are disappearing from the outdoors at a rate that would make them top of any conservationist's list of endangered species ...  
Tim Gill, British play advocate in The Ecologist



### ***Southwest Region***

Outdoor Skills Specialists

**Jean Mayer** - Cedar, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, Newton, Barry and McDonald Counties  
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**Greg Collier** - Hickory, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Greene, Webster, Christian, Stone and Taney Counties  
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In the Southwest Region your efforts teaching hunter education are paying off. To date we have had no fatality hunting incidents reported in association with the Firearms Deer Season. Your efforts are to be commended and they are appreciated. However, one area of concern is the number of incidents related to elevated tree stands. Thankfully, none of the reported falls have been fatal, but all have involved serious injuries. Please make a special effort to emphasize tree-stand safety in your future programs. Thank you.

New hunter education students often share with us when and where they took their hunter education class and many times who taught it! With excitement in their voices they share new-found knowledge and skill. One common link these enthusiastic young nimrods share is a positive, enjoyable, and educational experience while attending hunter education. Always remember the impression you make upon the young people in your hunter education programs is invaluable.

The next Hunter Education Instructor Course will be conducted at the Southwest Regional Office on Jan 21 from 6 to 10pm. Registration is required by Jan 7. Potential instructors may register by contacting Greg Collier.

The following dates are for the SW Region's upcoming on-line field days. Please contact your Outdoor Skills Specialist if you would like to volunteer.

Feb 20 - Lamar  
Feb 27 - Springfield  
Mar 20 - Neosho  
Apr 10 - Springfield

Please welcome the following new instructors for the SW Region:

Randall Allgood, Joplin; Amber Carr, Carthage; Jacob Cook, Joplin; John Eubanks, Joplin; Ray Halbert, Everton; Josh Lee, Olathe, KS; Jeremy Leibbrand, Neosho; Matt Medley, Carl Junction; Andrew Osborne, El Dorado Springs; Jon Reagan, Neosho; Jared Rumfelt, El Dorado Springs; Daniel Shores, Diamond; Andrew Wooden, Fordland

In closing, the Firearms Deer season is wrapping up and



weary deer hunters are starting to think about waterfowl hunting, winter fishing, trapping, or some upland hunting.

For the following young hunters the 2009 Deer Season will not soon be forgotten. Please join me in congratulating these young hunters.\*\*\*\*\*



Lauren Collier (Daughter of Outdoor Skills Specialist, Greg Collier)



Zach Fritz (Son of Protection Regional Supervisor, Greg Fritz)



Ryan Dickey (Son of Protection Regional Supervisor, Jason Dickey)



Nicholas Rose (Son of Outreach and Education Regional Supervisor, Warren Rose)



## Ozark Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist  
Larry Lindeman  
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Thanks again to ALL instructors and spouses for all you do to promote safe firearms handling and hunting in this great state. I sincerely hope you have experienced a safe and productive hunting season thus far.

In an attempt to dodge more inclement weather, the Volunteer Hunter-Ed Instructor/Agent appreciation and awards banquets for the Ozark Region will be held in March of 2010. The details are still being worked out, but look for your notification letter some time after the new year.

I know that many of our volunteer instructors would do what they do even if there were no awards given. However, those scheduled to receive the regular incentive HED awards from the Ozark region include the following:

James M. Dawson, Kirk T. Emory, Michael L. Graham,

Remember young hunter Nicholas Jeffries, son of Department Employee Aaron Jeffries and his monster fox squirrel from 2008? Well there

is more in the woods than just deer. Nicholas has kept up his skills this year and continued his successful ways (right). Congratulations Nicholas!





Dave Grossman, Johnnie Lou Mahan, Kevin Manis, Jennifer Ross, and Sandra J. Smith

If you are unable to attend the banquets to collect your award, let me know and I'll get it to you.

The Ozark Region will also be holding both a youth rabbit hunt and a youth squirrel hunt in January should anyone wish to help out. Call me for the details. For lunch, providing that some will be successful, there will be a game processing demonstration and then, I plan on testing some Dutch oven recipes as well. There will be some sort of lunch even if I have to resort to the hot dog back up plan!

I plan on assisting a friend of mine who is physically challenged during turkey season this year. He's never turkey hunted and is confined to a wheelchair due to complications from diabetes. If you get an opportunity to do the same, I encourage you to give it a shot.

Thanks again for what you do and remembering to share your passion of hunting with the younger (and older too) generation, and remember that whatever group you decide to help, keep 'em pointed in the safe direction.



## Northwest Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist  
**Tim Miller**  
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Fall has finally arrived and things have been quite busy here in Northwest region. I have been filling orders like crazy for hunter education materials requested by volunteer instructors and school teachers, making numerous school visits, as well as visits to hunter education classes. I would like to say thank you to all the Hunter Education instructors for all the hard work and dedication that make this program the great one that it is. I would like to thank the clerical staff at the Northwest regional office for their help during this busy time. Also, many thanks to the Conservation Agents for their hard work in providing support for this program.

I am pleased to announce that we now have agents staffed in Worth/Gentry, Clinton and Harrison Counties which were formerly vacant. All three of these Conservation agents recently graduated from the Conservation Agent Training Academy. They are: Brandon Lyddon 816-294-8144 in Worth/Gentry County, Adam Arnold 816-646-6926 in Clinton County, and Josh Roller 816-294-8767 in Harrison County. Please feel free to call them or me 816-271-3111 ext. 231 for any hunter education needs.

Earlier this fall several new hunter education instructors were certified. They are Shawn Harper, John Powell, Dakota Wilson, Anna Shawn, Kevin Montemeyer, Jacob

Burton, Georgia Kriebs, Jacob Decker, Jordan Miller, Cooper Jacobs, Mitchison Atchison, Jason Brown, Zach Davis, Barnett, Lanier, and Ben Schumacher. Also we have five new instructors who are school teachers who will be teaching hunter education in the schools. They are Joni fields from Fairfax R-III High School, Jackie Carlson or Worth Co R-III High School, Jeffrey Baumann of Savannah R-II High School, Troy Nally of North Nodaway R-VI High School and Carmen Buller of Cameron R-I High School. Welcome new Instructors!

### Upcoming Events:

Jan 15 - Hunter Education Instructor Banquet at the Grand River Inn in Chillicothe at 6:30pm

Jan 23 - Hunter Education Instructor Banquet at the Northwest Regional office in St. Joseph at 6pm  
Invitations and information to follow.



## St. Louis Region

Outdoor Skills Specialists (left to right)

**Scott Sarantakis, St. Louis County**  
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**Kurt Otterstein, Lincoln-St. Charles-Warren Counties**  
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The fall rush is over and hopefully everyone has been able to get out and practice what we preach in our classes all year. This time of year it is nice to meet up with family and friends and share stories as well as some of our harvest from the 2009 hunting seasons. We would like to thank everyone for a job well done in 2009.

### Managed Hunts:

On October 10 we held the Youth Deer Clinic at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. We had 19 of the 25 youth drawn for the youth deer hunt at Columbia Bottom attend the clinic. Floyd Bohler did a great job covering the Hunter Education review and shot placement portion of the clinic. The Hunt was held on Oct 24-25. On Saturday, 16 youth hunted with two harvesting bucks. On Sunday, 14 youth hunted with two more harvesting bucks. Totals for the weekend include 17 youth hunting with four harvesting



bucks. A few more had chances at deer but came up short. I heard numerous positive comments and would like to thank the wildlife staff at Columbia Bottom for helping to make it a success.



On November 21st, the Annual Woman's Hunt was held at Shaw Arboretum. Ten ladies participated this year, and Jennifer Zuniga and Sue Haskins each harvested a doe. The



weather cooperated and gave the ladies a prime hunting experience. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers and Kurt Otterstein for a great job organizing and putting on this hunt!

#### New Instructors:

Please help us welcome the following:

Brett Volmert, from Washington --- Franklin County  
 Samuel Halmick, from Sullivan --- Franklin County  
 Scott Honer, from DeSoto -- Jefferson County

#### Meetings:

The next two quarterly meetings are as follows:

Feb 4 at the Powder Valley Nature Center from 6:30 - 8:30pm

Aug 5 at the Forest Park Office from 6:30 - 8:30pm

#### Missouri Department of Conservation Volunteer Orientation Sessions:

These sessions are designed for new volunteers but are open to current volunteers if they would like to attend.

- Saturday, Mar 6, 9am – 5pm at Forest Park Visitor Center, St. Louis City
- Monday and Tuesday, Jun 7 & 8, 6 – 9 pm at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, Kirkwood
- Saturday, Sep 11, 9am – 5pm at Busch Conservation Area, St. Charles
- Monday and Tuesday, Dec 6 & 7, 6 – 9pm at Jay Henges Shooting Range and Education Center



### *Southeast Region*

Outdoor Skills Specialist

*DeeDee Dockins*

*deedee.dockins@mdc.mo.gov*

Happy New Year to all!! Looking back on the 2009 firearms deer season, nothing is quite exciting as seeing a young hunter bag his or her first deer. I have a soft spot for little girls who go hunting with dad or grandpa as well as those parents who patiently take their kids hunting. Often I am asked, “how do I get my son/daughter” interested in hunting? The answer is simple, make the hunt about them. It's their hunt and their experience. We have to shift our focus from the outcome to the experience. As a hunting mentor you have to build an experience, piece by piece. Maybe it's forming the connection between the hunter and the hunted. Having your child help you cook a wildlife dinner may give them a sense of the outdoor connection.

Make sure if you mentor a new hunter you go at their pace. Are they comfortable or do they have boots 2 sizes larger than what they need. If it's rainy and cold, maybe try another day. If they only can sit still 10 minutes the first day and 20 minutes the second, you still made progress!

Mark your calendars now for May 15. We are going to kick off this year's awards banquet with a big bang at the Apple Creek Trap and Skeet range.

Here are two hunters from our region that we are extremely proud of!



Pictured above is Hannah Scott, daughter of Bollinger County Conservation Agent Jeff Scott



## Northeast Region

Outdoor Skills Specialist

Ben Schlader

ben.schlader@mdc.mo.gov

Here we are once again, the best time of year! I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and enjoy the seasons with friends and family. And, of course, a big thank you to everyone for all of your efforts during Hunter Education courses this fall. As usual, the program continues to grow and change, with challenges as well as opportunities presenting themselves every day.

We have several new instructors in the region, each bringing with them skills and experience that is sure to increase the effectiveness of the program. One instructor in particular I would like to introduce in James Mihal of Ewing, Lewis County. James was involved in a very serious tree stand fall in November of 2004 and is now disabled. He is an avid hunter and has already assisted with several courses in the region, speaking on tree stand safety as well as all other material in the manual. James is very interested in helping out in the surrounding areas and would like to offer his assistance for future courses. Any Instructors who would like to invite James to assist are welcome to contact him at 573-822-7637.

On the Bowhunter Ed front, we do now have an urban archery hunt taking place in the region. The city of Moberly offered this hunt beginning in September and required all participating hunters attend a Bowhunter Education course focusing specifically on this hunt. The course, offered in September, was a success and well attended by over 30 hunters taking advantage of this unique opportunity. This hunt and course, will hopefully turn into an annual event and provide another example of how we can use hunting as an effective management tool.

And lastly, the Hunter Education program suffered a loss in early October with the passing of Alan Nelson of Moberly. Alan was a retired Lieutenant with the Missouri Department of Corrections and, with his son Justin, volunteered a great deal of his time assisting at Randolph County Hunter Education courses. Alan's dedication and contributions to Hunter Education will be missed.

Thanks again for all of your efforts, please let me know if I can be of any assistance.\*\*\*\*\*

If hunting were ended nationally, the costs to consumers would be in the billions. A study done by the association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies determined that if hunting were ended, three years later American consumers would be paying an extra \$511 annually for fruits and vegetables... "Potential costs of losing hunting and trapping as wildlife management methods," a report by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, May 25, 2005.



Pictured above is Lauren McDonough, daughter of Butler County Hunter Education Instructor John McDonough

As Lauren's dad stated in the email. We work for smiles!

We will have individual competition as well as county teams competing in the HED TopGun Shootout. Look in your next newsletter for more details about the shoot. The awards banquet will be at "The Plaza" in Cape Girardeau, catered by Ray's of Kelso. The event will be free to each active instructor and a guest.

I would ask that all of you send or email me pictures of your Hunter Education memories for a presentation the night of the banquet. If you have any pictures of you or your students that would be of interest to our group, please forward them to me. If you would like your pictures scanned and returned, please write your name on the back of the photo.

I look forward to a new Happy and Safe Hunter Education Year in the Southeast Region.\*\*\*\*\*





## *Andy Dalton Range & Outdoor Education Center*

Outdoor Education Center Supervisor  
Mike Brooks  
Mike.Brooks@mdc.mo.gov



When I started working at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center in July, 2001, all of the folks working here warned me about the upcoming deer rifle sight in days we enjoy each November as a precursor to the annual rifle deer season. I thought, how tough could this possibly be anyhow? After all, I was retired from law enforcement and was accustomed to dealing with people who possibly were in possession of firearms most any time.

It was only after that November that I realized that many people coming to the range with firearms to prepare for the deer woods were not always thinking about firearms safety and safe gun handling. This year was no different than that 1st year except we were much busier, the waiting lines seemed a bit longer, and we saw more new folks using the facility. Business was good as they say in the "big city". As a matter of fact business was so good that the waiting lines began in August this year and the deer hunters were not alone on this trip.

We experienced heavy usage of the archery range and the shotgun fields by folks who were tuning up for the opening of deer archery season and dove season. I said all of that to say this; I want to personally thank several of the Volunteer Hunter Education Instructors who regularly give us a hand during these very busy and stressful times. Instructors like Dale Garner, Eral Vernik, Linda Du Brul, Louis Boos, Milton Vernik, Nathan Thieman, Randy Vandegrift, Robert Carriger, Steve Govero and really make the difference helping us keep things safe during these peak times and these folks are always willing to give of their time and talent.

It is them and the many like most of you reading this who are willing to share their passion for safe, ethical hunting and shooting. Instructors who realize some folks need a little reminder from time to time to pay better attention to their gun handling habits, hoping to make a difference in someone's life by helping keep them safe and hunting incident free.

As we look into 2010, think about all of the reasons you started teaching Hunter Education. Stop and think about all of the things you have learned along the way and how enriched your life has become by sharing your knowledge, skills and attitude with all of the novice hunters you have had in your classes. As instructors, we may never realize when or if we save a life or prevent a hunting incident, but rest assured, you are shaping the future of hunting in a positive way every time you teach a class or help at a range program.

Believe the statistics when you see that the deer hunting

incident rate has dropped from over 50 incidents in the 1960's to a low in the single digits for 2008. Without all of our Volunteer Instructors this would not have been possible. If you are reading this and are currently one of these folks, give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done because YOU are the difference!

If you are reading this and are not yet one of these folks, please take a moment to think about who started you hunting and shooting and consider getting involved so you, too can be part of the solution. Pick up the telephone and call your local Conservation Regional Office and ask for the Outdoor Skills Specialist and get started into this rewarding sharing experience without delay.

Here are some upcoming events that Hunter Education Instructors might assist with at the Andy Dalton Shooting Range:

### January:

- 2 – Discover Nature Families and Women - Woodworking for Wildlife
- 8 – Discover Hunting - Predator Hunting
- 9 – Discover Hunting - Firearms Care and Maintenance
- 1 – Discover Hunting – Metallic Reloading Fundamentals
- 29 and 30 – Hunter Education

### February:

- 6 - Discover Hunting – Wild Game Preparation
- 13 - Discover Hunting – Shotgun Reloading Fundamentals
- 20 - Discover Nature Families and Women - Woodworking for Wildlife
- 26 and 27 - Hunter Education
- 28 – Online Hunter Education Field Day

### March:

- 13 – Discover Hunting – Spring Turkey Hunting Basics
- 20 – Discover Hunting – Antler Scoring Workshop
- 20 – Discover Hunting – Handgun Fundamentals
- 26 and 27 – Hunter Education

I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Safe New Year!\*\*\*\*\*



## *Lake City Range & Outdoor Education Center*

Outdoor Education Center Supervisor  
Steven Elliott  
steven.elliott@mdc.mo.gov



## WOMEN'S FIREARM SAFETY CLASS; THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PROGRAM

A long running-program here at Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center came to an end this September. The Women's Firearm Safety class was started here at Lake City 20 years ago. The program was started by



the supervisor of the range at the time, David Wyatt, Outdoor Skills Specialist in KC Region and several local volunteers. Many of the volunteers who began teaching the program have long since gone on to do

other things. Several of the volunteers that came after the program had just got started, continue to teach the firearms class. They have significantly contributed to the ever changing content of the program.

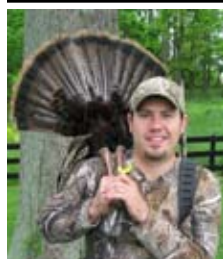
When the staff and volunteers started the Women's Firearm Safety it was a program that was taught during the summer. There were very few firearm instructional programs specifically designed just to women, 20 years ago in the Kansas City area. Most of the firearm instructional of that time focused on men.



The Lake City program was well publicized and gained popularity with many of the students who took the class telling their friends and others about the women's program. As time went on women volunteers were added to the list to help the staff at Lake City with the growing number of people interested in attending the program. Some of the first women to join the staff some 18 years ago were Judy Farnsworth, Pat Cooper, and Diane Berkowitz. Today these same women still are instrumental as instructors. They also assist the range staff in developing new ideas in expanding the Women's Firearm Safety program.

Another volunteer who cannot go unmentioned was Ralph Dow, who passed away January 2009. Mr. Dow joined the group of volunteers about the same time as Judy and Pat. His humor and companionship will be missed.

As the old range doors are closing and the new range doors are opening. The staff looks forward to providing a very popular program to the KC region. As the Women's Firearm Safety program will continue to grow, so will the need for new volunteers.\*\*\*\*\*



## *Henges Range & Outdoor Ed Center*



Outdoor Education Center Supervisor  
**Jake Hindman**  
[jake.hindman@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:jake.hindman@mdc.mo.gov)

Most of you have probably heard that the Jay Henges range is receiving a renovation. By the time you have read this article, construction should be underway. In addition to

changes on the outside of the range we also have changes occurring on the inside. Effective Feb 1, Kurt Otterstein (formal OSS in St. Louis Region) will be the new Range Officer at the Jay Henges range. The former Range Officer, Jim Engel, as well as Charlie Trokey (former Resource Assistant) both retired near the start of the year. The Resource Assistant position has not been filled as I write this article.

Details and updates about the renovation can be found on our website at [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges). The rifle/pistol range will be receiving a concrete floor, concrete baffles, and a bullet trap. We are expected to reopen in August or September of 2010. During this time the trap, shotgun patterning and archery ranges will remain open.



I hope that your fall hunting seasons were safe and enjoyable. I was able to get out and hunt quite a bit, and took part in hunting for deer, turkey, quail, waterfowl and predators. My deer season was eventful and I was fortunate enough to harvest a doe with my bow and 2 with my rifle (a 9 pointer I harvested on Nov 15 is pictured above.)

Listed below are the programs and other events that will be offered at Henges in January, February and March. If you are interested in attending or helping teach please let me know.

### January

- 6 - Home Firearm Safety
- 8 - Range Volunteer Banquet
- 12 - Range Volunteer Meeting
- 14 - Introduction to Handguns
- 20 - Reloading for Handguns
- 26 thru 28 - Hunter Education

### February

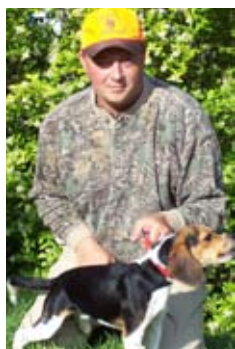
- 10 - Shotgun Reloading
- 18 - Women's Introduction to Handguns
- 27 - Antler Scoring

### March

- 10 - Introduction to Handguns
- 20 - Basic Shotgun
- 25 - Metallic Cartridge Reloading
- 27 - Discover Hunting: Wild Turkeys
- 30 thru April 1 - Hunter Education

I urge you to take a first-timer out hunting and mentor them along the way, you will be glad you did.\*\*\*\*\*





## Busch Range & Outdoor Ed Center



Outdoor Education Center Supervisor  
Eric Edwards  
eric.edwards@mdc.mo.gov

I don't know about everyone else, but 2009 came and went before I knew it. I hope everyone had a good deer season.

Things were a bit slow for us on my farm. We have several programs this winter that we could use some help with. If anyone has some free time, please let me know. Our two biggest events will be our youth and women's pheasant hunts in January and February.

### January

- 5 thru 7 - Hunter Education Class 5:30 pm
- 9 - Discover Hunting; Youth Pheasant Hunt 7am
- 23 - Discover hunting; Youth Rabbit Hunt 7am

### February

- 2 thru 4 - Hunter Education Class 5:30pm
- 10 - Basic Shotgun Class 6 pm
- 20 - Women's Pheasant Hunt 7am

### March

- 2 thru 4 - Hunter Education Class 5:30pm
- 13 - Discover Nature; Families, basic Archery 9am
- 23 - Discover Hunting; Turkey Hunting 6pm

\*\*\*\*\*



## Parma Woods Range & Outdoor Ed Center



Outdoor Education Center Supervisor  
Nathan Woodland  
nathan.woodland@mdc.mo.gov

It's official, the staff at Parma Woods have all survived the deer season rush. Hunting seasons are well underway, though limited successes have been realized we are all still very optimistic about the remainder of them all. My heart is saddened when I hear of all the unfortunate and preventable incidents that have occurred during this season, some closer to home than others. I think about the goals and the objectives of the Hunter Education program, and all of the challenges that instructors will face as a result of these incidents. We as instructors have our work cut out for us. Hope you all have a wonderful winter season and until next time, hunt safe.

Here is a list of a few of our upcoming classes. For a full listing visit our website at [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/parma](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/parma). If you need more info, would like to attend, or volunteer to help with any of these classes, call the range office at 816-891-9941.

### January

- 1 - Range Closed for Holiday
- 2 - Youth Air Rifle
- 7 - Antler Measuring
- 7 thru 10 - Kansas City Sport Show
- 9 - Regional Hunter Ed Instructor Awards Banquet
- 9 & 10 - Smithville Lake Eagle Days
- 18 - Range Closed for Holiday
- 20 - Shotgun Reloading

### February

- 7 - Discover Nature Families-Animal Tracking
- 9 thru 11 - Hunter Education Class
- 12 - Range Closed for Holiday
- 14 - Ice Fishing Seminar
- 15 - Range Closed for Holiday
- 18 - Metallic Reloading
- 24 - Intro to Fly Tying
- 27 - Youth Air Rifle

### March

- 4 & 6 - Basic Firearms
- 9 thru 11 - Hunter Education Class
- 27 - Bowhunter Education Class
- 31 - Discover Hunting-Turkey Hunting Clinic

### April

- 1 - Discover Hunting-Shotgun Patterning Class
- 6 thru 8 - Hunter Education Class
- 15 & 17 - Discover Nature Women-Handgun Basics
- 24 - MO State High School Trapshoot

\*\*\*\*\*

# 50 YEARS

## Missouri's Modern Turkey Hunting Season Turns 50 years old, 1960 -- 2010

Fifty years ago, marked the official comeback of wild turkeys in Missouri with the first spring season after closing all turkey hunting in 1937. After closing for 23 years, Missouri's first modern turkey season was held in April 1960. Hunting was permitted for only 3 days in 14 counties. One out of eight turkey hunters (about 12 percent) was successful in Missouri's first spring season.

As we move forward in 2010 the department will be highlighting this milestone. Turkey seasons still remain to have one of the highest hunting related firearm incident rates compared to other species. We ask all instructors to highlight this milestone during their courses and especially concentration on the special safety surrounding this type of hunting in conjunction with this anniversary.

## ***Our New Instructors for Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education Courses.***

# ***Welcome New Instructors!***

These new instructors have completed their training, 10-hour mentorship teaching certification and background checks (Sep - Nov) and are ready to teach and start accruing hours. So all you senior instructors out there, be the great mentors we know you are. Get with your OSS and make contact with these folks and get them involved now. If you recognize any of these folks who might live near you, please give them a call and ask if you can help them get started. Remember, it is always appreciated when you lend a helping hand.

### **Central Region**

#### *Boone County*

Kathryn Campbell - HE

#### *Cole County*

David Boucher - BHE

#### *Howard County*

Clinton Jones - HE

Bradley Kircher - HE

Hollis Smith - BHE

### **Kansas City Region**

#### *Benton County*

Levi Riley - HE

#### *Johnson County*

Michael Brandt - HE

### **Northeast Region**

#### *Pike County*

Perry Yoder - HE

Dale Garman - HE

John Hauch - HE

Bradley Richards - HE

Kennith Smith - HE

### **Southeast Region**

#### *Perry County*

Richard Presnell - BHE

Jason Luttrell - HE

### **Southwest Region**

#### *Greene County*

Rebecca Ziegler - HE

#### *Hickory County*

Earl Cauthron - BHE

#### *Jasper County*

Stoney McCleery - HE

#### *Jasper County*

Jake Cook - HE

#### *Newton County*

Jon Reagon - HE



## **Because You Asked?**

### ***What are the guidelines or policies covering HE testing procedures for our classes?***

First, there are two delivery methods allowed for final tests. Students test on their own or have the questions and answers read to them.

During the class kick-off portion in your Instructor Guide you should take the time to explain what will happen throughout the course and testing procedures. To avoid embarrassing any student, you should announce at this time if anyone would like to have the test read to them to let an instructor know during the class breaks, so they can approach you without the whole onlooking class.

During any and all testing/retesting there must be either two instructors present or an instructor and another adult 21 years of age or older. No one-on-one contact is allowed (except primary school teachers during the normal school setting.) Instructors may answer questions from students during the test to help define or clarify terms, however instructors may not reword questions or answers. If the test is being read to students, instructors are to read the question and answers as they are written.

If the student fails the first time, the instructor has the option to offer the student up to seven days to study and retest (recommended) or to retest immediately one time if time permits. Offering a retest is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. Students are allowed to retest only once and must retake the full test, if they fail the retest, they will have to retake the course in its entirety.

### **Continuing the Call for Email Addresses**

We are continuing our call of the past year for email addresses of instructors. If you have not been receiving emails from us simply send an email to [tony.legg@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:tony.legg@mdc.mo.gov) with your name and request to be added to the instructor group list. You will be able to then receive immediate updates on training, materials, instructor offers and discounts, information, notices, web links, etc. without having to wait on the next newsletter (especially now that we are going to only three times a year) to find out new information. Please ensure your spam blocker has Tony Legg's email address as exempt, otherwise your blocker may reject the email due to it going to so many addresses.

## ***INSTRUCTOR DISCOUNTS***

IHEA has a central web page that lists discount offers to instructors. This webpage can be found at <http://www.ihea.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors.php>, or go to [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com), click the Instructors tab on the green bar, then click Special Offers For Instructors.

You don't have to be a member of IHEA (although it is encouraged) to receive a discount. All instructors qualify, but the vendor will require that they provide current documentation/instructor card to prove that they are a state currently certified HE instructor.

Username: instructor

Password: gohunt

NBEF has a central webpage that lists discount offers to instructors. This webpage can be found at <http://www.nbef.org/instructor.html> (yes, instructor is mis-spelled) or you can go to their home page at <http://www.nbef.org> and click on Instructor Section. Password is wadsworth.



## News Tidbits

From National Shooting Sports Foundation Bullet Points

Full articles can be found at: <http://www.nssf.org/>

### MIDWAY USA EARNS PRESIDENTIAL HONOR . . .

President Barack Obama and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke today announced that five organizations, including industry member MidwayUSA (Columbia, Mo.), are among the recipients of the 2009 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest presidential honor for innovation and performance excellence. "The road to greatness in America has been, and always will be, traveled by those who embrace change and work hard every day to be the best; the organizations we honor today with the Baldrige National Quality Award exemplify that spirit," Obama said. "This year's recipients have shown how quality, innovation, and an unending quest for excellence help strengthen our nation and brighten the future of all Americans."

**'THE URBAN DEERSLAYER'** . . . An article in the "Dining" section of The New York Times last week focused on how more and more city dwellers are beginning to hunt in an effort to forge deeper connections with the food they eat. "I'd never fired a gun before," said new hunter Michael Davis, 44. "I grew up in Southern California. We surfed, we didn't hunt." Read article at [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/25/dining/25hunt.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/25/dining/25hunt.html?_r=1)

### NEW DATA: PARTICIPATION UP 3.5% IN PAST 5 YEARS . . .

Between 2003 and 2008, women who hunted with firearms increased 3.5 percent to 2.9 million, according to new data from the National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA). Women who participated in bowhunting rose 1.5 percent to 600,000 during that time. Louisiana can attest to the recent rise in female participation. This year alone, women with hunting licenses jumped 12 percent there when compared to 2007-08, the Shreveport Times reports.

### ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST REFUSES TO LET HUNTER RETRIEVE DEER . . .

The actions of a Connecticut animal-rights activist were so shocking that a report appeared across the continent in the Los Angeles Times. The article documents the account of a bowhunter who legally arrowed a white-tailed deer during the Connecticut season and tracked it to a private property where it had collapsed and died. The hunter went to the door of the residence to ask permission to recover his deer. The resident, who, as it turned out, was CEO of the Animal Rights Alliance, refused permission. The Oct. 20 article reported that the carcass remains in the yard where the deer died on Oct. 2.

### JUDGE REJECTS CLAIM THAT PISTOL DIDN'T HAVE ADEQUATE WARNINGS . . .

On Aug. 20, a judge ruled that Smith & Wesson wasn't to blame for an incident that caused a shooter to lose a finger (Foltz v. Smith & Wesson Corp.), reports Texas Lawyer magazine. In 2006, Roger Foltz was firing his .460 revolver and placed his finger

between the cylinder and the back of the barrel. When he fired, the hot, pressurized gasses escaped in the area where he had placed his finger and partially amputated it. Smith & Wesson successfully argued the safety manual included with the pistol specifically and sufficiently warned users against placing their fingers where Foltz placed his. According to the court, makers and sellers of firearms have no duty to warn of the obvious dangers of owning or selling a handgun.

### HOUSE BILL AIMS TO BOOST FUNDING FOR SHOOTING RANGES . . .

U.S. Rep. Betsy Markey, D-Colo., has introduced legislation aimed at increasing federal funding for public shooting ranges. H.R. 3781 is the House companion bill to the Senate's S. 1702. The bill would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to allow states to allocate increased funding for the construction and maintenance of public shooting facilities.

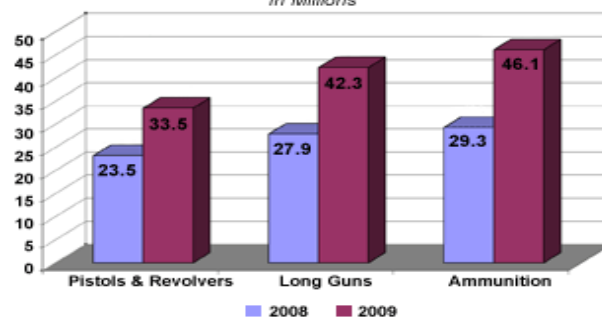
### NEWSPAPER APOLOGIZES FOR LETTER ADVOCATING KILLING HUNTERS . . .

The Burlington Free Press ran a letter of apology last week after publishing a reader's letter that said, "I suggest that before the next annual [moose] killing season, other residents be awarded legal permits to kill hunters . . . ." In response to the letter being published, the commissioner of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department used the opportunity to write an op-ed column explaining the value of hunting and its benefits on the state's moose population. Read the letter, apology and op-ed in NSSF's Aiming for Accuracy Blog.

### SENATE AMENDMENT PROTECTS POCKETKNIVES . . .

As reported in earlier Bullet Points, there was an attempt by U.S. Customs to reclassify any knife that could be opened with one hand as a switchblade, effectively banning almost all pocket knives. The U.S. Senate last week approved the FY2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill Conference Report, which includes an amendment to protect the use of pocketknives. The amendment, inserted into the bill in July by Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas), Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) successfully blocked the attempt by the Office of Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to alter their interpretation of the definition of switchblade knives to include spring-assisted or one-handed-opening knives as defined under the 1958 Switchblade Knife Act.

Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collections  
2nd Quarter (calendar year)  
In Millions



# NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

*Best effort to conserve and manage wildlife that the world has ever seen.*



- Wildlife is Held in Public Trust
- Eliminating Commerce in Dead Wildlife
- Allocating Wildlife Use Through Law
- Hunting Opportunity for All
- Wildlife May be Killed Only for Legitimate Reasons
- Wildlife is an International Resource
- Science is the Basis for Wildlife Policy

*"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." — Theodore Roosevelt*